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| 09/594,332 | 06/15/2000 | Ryan W. Battle | MS1-0826US | 8527 |

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| EXAMINER |
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SWEARINGEN, JEFFREY R

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2445

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10/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/594,332 | Applicant(s) BATTLE ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Jeffrey R. Swearingen | Art Unit 2445 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-15,18-28,31-36 and 39-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 37 and 38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-15,18-28,31-36,39-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6-15, 18-28, 31-36, and 39-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 6-15, 18-28, 31-36, and 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bladow et al. (US 6,115,040) in view of Lu (US 6,100,918).

4. In regard to claim 1, 7-8, Bladow disclosed:

Providing a first cookie to a browser being used by the user, the first cookie maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following an authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49

receiving a selection of a single logout link, wherein the logout link is contained on any of the sites that the user has visited on the affiliated servers; column 17, lines 42-43

causing a request for data from the affiliated servers to be issued by the browser based on the list maintained with the first cookie, wherein the request further causes the affiliated servers to send to the browser cookie setting information and an image which is indicative of successful logout; column 17, lines 42-49

clearing second cookies from the browser by changing settings of the second cookies in accordance with the cookie setting information, wherein the second cookies include data provided to the browser by the affiliated servers that the user visits following the authentication; and column 17, lines 42-49

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logging the user out the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication by selection of the single logout link. Column 17, lines 42-49

5. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

6. In regard to claim 6, Bladow disclosed:

The second cookies are expired by the browser in response to the cookie setting information to log the user out of the affiliated servers having the sites that the user visited. Column 17, lines 42-49

7. In regard to claim 9, Bladow disclosed:

The user is logged out of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user by selection of the single logout link. Column 17, lines 42-49

8. In regard to claims 10, Bladow disclosed:

receiving a request for a logout page, wherein a logout link to the logout page is contained on any site that the user has visited following an authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49

providing a link to an expire cookies page hosted on each affiliated server having a site visited by the user following the authentication that, when called by a browser of the user, causes each affiliated server to clear cookies on the user's browser by sending cookie setting information to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies, column 17, lines 42-49

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wherein the cookies include data provided to the browsers from a corresponding one of the affiliated servers. column 17, lines 42-49

9. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

10. In regard to claims 11, 15, Bladow disclosed:

Means for receiving a request for a logout page, wherein a logout link to the logout page is contained on any site on the affiliated servers that the user has visited following an authentication of the user by an authentication server; column 17, lines 42-49

And a module that provides a link to an expire cookies page on each affiliated server that, when called by a browser of the user, causes each affiliated server to clear cookies on the user's browser by sending cookie setting information to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies, column 17, lines 42-49

wherein the cookies include data provided to the browser from an associated one of the affiliated servers, and column 17, lines 42-49

wherein the data contains at least one of:

*a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server, and
a profile for the user. Column 16, lines 1-52*

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11. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

12. In regard to claim 12, Bladow disclosed:

A visited sites cookie for maintaining a list of affiliated servers that a user has visited following the authentication. Column 16, lines 51-67

13. In regard to claim 13, Bladow disclosed:

the list of affiliated servers is used to identify the link to each expire cookies page on each affiliated server. Column 17, lines 42-49

14. In regard to claim 14, Bladow disclosed:

the request for a logout page causes the logout page to be rendered by the user's browser, the logout page directing the user's browser to the expire cookies page on each affiliated server. column 17, lines 42-49

15. In regard to claim 18, Bladow disclosed:

requesting a logout page from an authentication server by selecting a logout link, wherein the logout link is on any site on the affiliated domain servers that a user of the browser has visited following an authentication of the user or on the authentication server; column 17, lines 42-49
receiving image tags from the authentication server with the logout page; column 17, lines 42-49

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*issuing get image requests to URLs identified by the image tags; column 17, lines 42-49
clearing cookies identified by responses to the get image requests, wherein the clearing
is carried out by changing settings of the cookies in accordance with cookie setting
information received from the affiliated domain servers hosting the URLs identified by the
image tags; and column 17, lines 42-49*

*rendering images received with the cookie setting information in responses from the
affiliated domain server, for inclusion in a logout page displayed by the browser, column
17, lines 42-49*

*wherein the cookies include data provided to the browser from the authentication server.
column 17, lines 42-49*

16. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

17. In regard to claim 19, Bladow disclosed:

*the image comprises an image of a checkmark for indicating successful logout from a
corresponding one of the affiliated servers. column 17, lines 42-49*

18. In regard to claim 20, Bladow disclosed:

*the image tags ensures that the image will not be retrieved from cache. column 17, lines
42-49*

19. In regard to claim 21, Bladow disclosed:

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the image tag includes a query. column 17, lines 42-49

20. In regard to claim 22, Bladow disclosed:

the affiliated domain servers logged into are identified in a visited sites data structure.

column 17, lines 42-49

21. In regard to claim 23, Bladow disclosed:

the data structure comprises a visited sites cookie provided to the browser by the authentication server. column 17, lines 42-49

22. In regard to claim 24, Bladow disclosed:

receiving a request for a logout page, wherein a logout link to the logout page is on any site that the user has visited following an authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49

providing a link to an expire cookies page hosted on each affiliated server in the form of an image tag that when called by a browser of the user, causes each affiliated server having a site that the user has visited following the authentication to clear cookies on the user's browser by sending cookie setting information with an image sent to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies, column 17, lines 42-49

wherein the cookies include data provided to the browsers from an authentication servers. column 17, lines 42-49

23. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout

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confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

24. In regard to claim 25, Bladow disclosed:

a data structure of a visited site is maintained identifying the affiliated servers that are logged into by the user following the authentication. column 17, lines 42-49

25. In regard to claim 26, Bladow disclosed:

The data structure is a visited sites cookie provided to the browser by the authentication server. column 17, lines 42-49

26. In regard to claim 27, Bladow disclosed:

the logout link is provided on one or more of the multiple servers logged into through the affiliated servers, one of the affiliated servers, and the authentication server. column 17, lines 42-49

27. In regard to claim 28, Bladow disclosed:

the cookies comprise user personal information. Column 16, lines 1-52

28. In regard to claim 31, Bladow disclosed:

obtaining a visited sites data file which identifies each affiliated server having a site visited following an authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49
generating a plurality of image tags based on the visited sites data file, each image tag corresponding to one of the affiliated servers; column 17, lines 42-49
providing a URL in each image tag that causes an affiliated server associated with the image tag to clear cookies by sending cookie setting information for changing settings of the cookies to cause the cookies to be deleted by the browser, the cookie setting information being sent with an image sent to the browser in response to receipt of the image tag by the corresponding affiliated server, column 17, lines 42-49
wherein the cookies deleted include data provided to the browser from an associated one of the affiliated servers, and

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generating the logout page by including the images received by the browser from the affiliated servers in the logout page. Column 16, lines 1-52

29. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

30. In regard to claim 32, Bladow disclosed:

each image tag contains a query string parameter causing the browser to fetch an image from the associated affiliated server with the image tag with a separate transaction.
column 17, lines 42-49

31. In regard to claim 33, Bladow disclosed:

the data contains at least one of:
a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server, and
a profile for the user. Column 16, lines 1-52

32. In regard to claims 34-40, Bladow disclosed:

the data contains at least one of:
a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
a profile for the user. Column 16, lines 1-52

33. In regard to claim 41, Bladow disclosed:

Hosting by each affiliated server a URL used for retiring cookies during logging out of the user; column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52

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Directing the request for data issued by the browser to the URL for retiring cookies for each affiliated server having a site that the user has visited following the authentication; and column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52

Sending, by the affiliated servers receiving the request, the image and a set cookie header including the cookie setting information for changing the settings of the second cookies for clearing the second cookies. column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52

34. In regard to claim 42, Bladow disclosed:

Authenticating a user to visit sites on the affiliated servers by an authentication server associated with the affiliated servers; column 17, lines 41-49

Providing a first cookie to a browser being used by the user, the first cookie for maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication of the user, wherein as the user visits sites on the affiliated servers following the authentication, second cookies containing data associated with the corresponding affiliated servers are stored by the browser; column 17, lines 41-49

Selecting, by the user, a single logout link, wherein the logout link is contained on any site that the user has visited on the affiliated servers or the authentication server following the authentication; column 17, lines 41-49

Rendering a logout page on the browser of the user, said logout page causing the browser to generate a plurality of image requests based on the list of affiliated servers maintained by the first cookie, each image request corresponding to one of the affiliated servers listed in the list of affiliated servers; column 17, lines 41-49

Receiving the image requests at URLs hosted by corresponding affiliated servers that causes the affiliated server receiving the image request to send an image and cookie setting information to the browser, wherein the cookie setting information is used for changing settings of the second cookies to cause the second cookies to be expired by the browser, wherein expiration of the second cookies causes the user to be logged out

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of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication.

column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52

35. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

Conclusion

36. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey R. Swearingen whose telephone number is (571)272-3921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on 571-272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeffrey R. Swearingen
Examiner
Art Unit 2445

/J. R. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 2445

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2445